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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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Murry N. Fairbank

THEY LIVE ON VOLCANOES AND SEEM TO LIKE IT

The British discoverers of New Britain found the inhabitants cheerfully living at the foot of fuming volcanoes. The natives have even given intimate names to their volcanic neighbors, such as the Mother and the Daughters. New Britain's people are mainly Papuo-Melanesians, descendants of Papuans from New Guinea (Papua) to the southwest and Melanesians who ventured to the island later perhaps from the Solomon Islands to the southeast. They speak a confusion of languages, no tribe understanding their neighbors but most of them attempting a few English words. These Brunei men, regarding the photographer with stares and smiles, follow old New British customs of decoration. The friendly citizen at the right wears a fillet of string, bone earrings, and a bone nose ornament. His grave companion's patch of color on the brow is not warpaint but dance-paint—a sign of his readiness for a festival. Among such tribesmen the Yanks are making their way through the jungles of New Britain (Bulletin No. 2).

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic School Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Originally entered as second-class matter January 27, 1922; re-entered as of April 27, 1943, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1944, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

Russian Recovery of Sevastopol Is History Repeating

THE Russians' forceful drive for the recovery of Sevastopol has added a new chapter of ferocious warfare to the Crimea's history. Soviet armies swept the Axis forces across the Crimean Peninsula to the southwest corner where the Russian air and naval forces could pound all Nazi escape lanes westward to Romania.

Sevastopol, battered bastion of Russia's northern Black Sea coast, has changed hands several times during the 161 years since Russia won the Crimea from Turkey. The city climbs the slopes of a plateau more than 600 feet above sea level —western end of the Yaila-dagh, the mountains bordering the peninsula's southeast coast.

Sevastopol's Hills Are Natural Defenses

The rocky hillsides terracing from the harbor to the historic heights of Malakhov are natural ramparts which in several wars have helped Sevastopol resist invaders for long periods. In 1941-42 the city held out against the Nazis for 245 days. During the Crimean War of 1853-56 the rocky battlements prolonged the defense through 322 days of siege. When the French took Malakhov Hill in September, 1855, the Russians abandoned the city in the night, blowing up bridges and fortifications and firing the ruins, in accordance with their historic scorched earth policy.

In World War I the Germans took advantage of their peace treaty with Russia to march unopposed into Sevastopol, in April, 1918. They held it until squadrons of the Allied fleet sailed into the harbor on November 26, 1918.

Sevastopol's harbor is a fjord-like inlet reaching for about four miles east between steep limestone bluffs. It tapers to a point where the Chernaya River pours into it through Inkerman Ravine. Its northern shore is bounded by the massive flat-topped mountains which there descend abruptly into the sea.

On the south several bays notch the coast, the deepest being South Bay, the city's inner harbor. This bay, lying between two steep hills, provided safe anchorage for large vessels. Before the Nazi siege it had a naval dockyard, a floating dock, torpedo-boat slips, and storehouses. Naval vessels docked on its eastern side.

Caves in Harbor Cliffs Sheltered Early Christians

Sevastopol's great sheltered basin is three-quarters of a mile wide and is deep enough for vessels to anchor almost at the water's edge. For spaciousness and safety from attack by sea, it has been compared to Malta's Grand Harbour.

The rocky cliffs of its southern wall are described as honeycombed with excavations which during the siege in 1942 sheltered soldiers, civilians, provisions, and even airport facilities. Cliffside grottoes that protected early Christians still exist in the vicinity. To the north is a mountain refuge with thousands of old caves carved into the rock on eighteen different levels.

In the city itself flights of steps led from one broad tree-shaded street with its tier of stone buildings to the next. A prominent landmark was the white cathedral; its cupola topped by a gilded cross towered above the other buildings.

Since the Crimean War the dead of Sevastopol have always outnumbered the living residents. In addition to separate cemeteries for French and British dead, a common grave holds the bones of 127,000 Russians who had died in that war

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U. S. Army Air Forces

YANK BOMBERS JOIN RABAUL'S VOLCANOES IN SHOWERING DESTRUCTION

In Simpson Harbor Yank-made explosions supplement the volcanic eruptions which nature has provided frequently for Rabaul's residents. Yank bombers have turned the once safe shelter for the Jap fleet into a trap for the ships from Nippon. Like fish darting this way and that to escape the harpoon, the Jap vessels move in zigzag patterns to dodge the bombs. German built, between the harbor and volcanic mountains, Rabaul's streets cross each other at right angles. A road (right) following the shoreline past the coconut plantations strung along the coast connects Rabaul with Kokopo, beyond Blanche Bay on St. George Channel. Since the Japs seized Rabaul in January, 1942, the piers jutting into the north curve of the harbor (left)—from which copra was shipped in peacetime—were used to transship war supplies on the Tokyo-Truk-Rabaul supply line while the Japs held bases in this sector (Bulletin No. 2).

blazing south Russian war front.

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Where Are the Yanks? 11. New Britain

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles about the regions where American service men and women are stationed.)

YANK island-hopping in the South Pacific has produced headlines from many battlegrounds in tropical settings strange to American eyes. None is more typical of the South Seas than New Britain, where Japs have held on to Rabaul, chief town and key base.

A 300-mile crescent-shaped strip between New Guinea, bulky buffer for Australia, and Bougainville, northern link of the Solomons chain, New Britain provides a foothold for additional operations against the Japs. Major targets are the last hold-out Japanese bases in these islands; also the Jap supply ships nosing through the Philippines and the Netherlands Indies, or dodging through the Carolines west of Truk, enemy stronghold 798 miles north of Rabaul.

Japanese-held since September, 1942, New Britain had been administered by Australia under a League of Nations mandate issued in 1920. Over the centuries, Spaniards, Britons, Dutchmen, and Germans have had their innings in this area, leaving traces in place names, in racial strains, in language, and in business ties.

Volcanoes Smoke among the Mountains

Twice as big as New Jersey, New Britain is the largest and most important island in the Bismarck Archipelago (map, next page). The Bismarcks include New Ireland, a drumstick of land across St. George Channel from New Britain with battered Kavieng at its northwestern tip; New Hanover; and the Admiralty Islands, where U. S. cavalrymen riding boats recently seized the useful Momote airstrip on Los Negros.

Seen from the sea, New Britain is a forest-trimmed platform spined with mountain ridges grading up to mile heights, their summits shrouded with shimmering cloud streamers and sulphurous volcanic vapors. Deep valleys, breaking the line of the hills, channel swift streams which are navigable in flat-bottomed boats.

New Britain, made and shaped by volcanic action, retains the evidence of its origin in fuming cones and seething craters. Eruptions centered in the east have showered the land with ashes, upheaved the coastal waters, created Jack-in-the-box islands, wrecked craft in the harbors, spattered shore settlements with mud, and at times forced evacuation of Rabaul and its neighboring town, Kokopo.

Earthquakes are fairly frequent. They shake the island from end to end, and give natives and foreigners the uneasy feeling of sitting on a huge electric vibrator. Temperatures rarely top 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Civilization stops at the coast; the interior is still pretty much a question mark. Tales of cannibalism still come from the back country; head-hunting persists. Jungle natives living in stockaded villages are wary of strangers. They attribute all misfortunes to the sorcery of enemies, are ruled by superstitions, and regard justice as "an eye for an eye." They eat ants, snakes, and dogs, and indulge in noisy revelry.

Pidgin English Spoken along the Coast

Chinese, Malays, and Javanese, brought in by Germans during their occupancy of the island before World War I, diluted native strains in coastal settlements, lightened local color, and affected dialects. Negroid characteristics of the Melanesian stock are still apparent. Pidgin English is the common tongue along the coast. Malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery, and beriberi are medical problems which have been beyond the power of native methods to cure.

Many natives have taken to plantation work, domestic service, and some trades. Prewar native population totaled between 85,000 and 90,000.

Native women, known as Marys, do the drudgery, acting as the island's pack mules. The men loaf, hunt, fight, primp (illustration, cover). A traveling costume might include a loincloth, a bandolier of split banana leaves, smudges of lime around the eyes, dust and coconut oil smeared on the chest, a palm leaf vanity case, and a pet cockatoo perched on the shoulder.

On festive occasions natives wear masks and high headdresses, streak paint on their naked bodies, and festoon themselves with streamers of colored paper. Precision dancers rival the footwork of Radio City's famed Rockettes, keeping time to the clicking of shells and the beating of drums. Singing contests spice village life. Betel nuts are chewed by young and old.

New Britain's chief towns are Rabaul, the prewar capital, and Kokopo, the old capital. Rabaul, squatting on the shore flats edging the blue waters of spacious Blanche Bay with its

UMI

in the city's defense. The present war has tragically increased the census of the dead. Having grown to half again its 1926 size, the city in the 1939 census counted 112,000 inhabitants. An additional 100,000 transients, however, every year before the war, stopped over in Sevastopol to take advantage of its pleasantly warm climate or its health resort facilities.

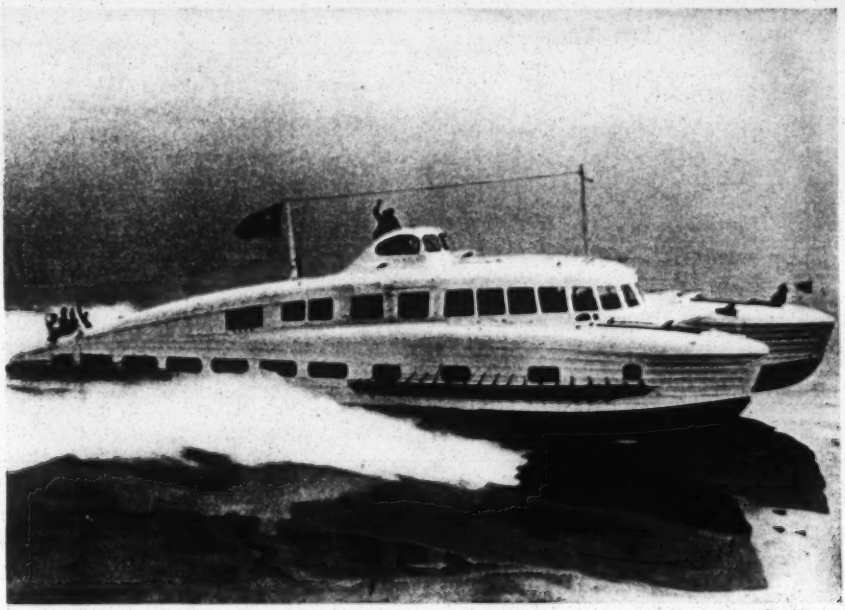
Worms retarded the early development of the city. As soon as the Crimea was annexed to Russia, in 1783, Catherine the Great fostered the building of a naval base. Shipworms flourishing in the warm water gnawed the wooden hulls and necessitated constant repairs. The coming of ironclad ships defeated the shipworms.

Because Sevastopol's harbor was the site of a naval base, merchant marine trade was carried on from a commercial port at Streletska Bay, on the south side of the approach to Sevastopol. Here docked the vessels of the coastal trade carrying freight and passengers (illustration, below) from one Black Sea port to another, and foreign cargo ships not permitted in the military harbor.

Note: Sevastopol may be located on the National Geographic Society's Map of Europe and the Near East. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C.

For further information, see "I Learn About the Russians," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1943; and "Roaming Russia's Caucasus," July, 1942*; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Crimea: Playground and Battleground" (Geo-Graphic Brevity), November 22, 1943; and "Sevastopol's Battles Launched Florence Nightingale" (Geo-Graphic Brevity), April 27, 1942.

Bulletin No. 1, May 8, 1944.



Sovfoto

RUSSIA'S FLYING FISH OF PEACETIME PLEASURE MAY BE ENMESHED IN WAR

This 78-foot high-powered speedboat, with a cruising range of nearly 400 miles, was built for peacetime coastal service around Russia's Black Sea. It was to serve Black Sea ports with Riviera-like climate, such as Sevastopol, Sochi, and Yalta, where peacetime Russians could rest and relax. This flying fish of Russia's southern waters whisked as many as 150 passengers in its spacious many-windowed cabin over the water at 45 miles an hour. Gleaming white and made entirely of plastic, it looked like a second cousin to the airplane whose service around the Black Sea it supplemented. Painted for war, it may have served as a troop transport on this blazing south Russian war front.

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Afghanistan Emerges from Asia's Middle Ages

AFGHANISTAN'S new treaty with China has called attention to the little-known buffer country to the northwest of India, hailed as a new economic frontier with a large untapped oil reserve.

With the area of Texas, and possibly twice the population, Afghanistan still has no railroads. A highway system, with good roads in the south and west, circles the country. There is a 228-mile connection into northern India, from the Afghan capital of Kabul through the Khyber Pass to Peshawar; a shorter link to the southwest connects Kandahar with India's border station, Chaman. Rivers haul only timber rafts; transportation is mostly by camels and ponies.

Long a Land of Mystery

Lack of communication facilities resulted largely from the landlocked country's oriental isolation. Afghans wanted no foreign traffic. A sign on the Khyber Pass at the India border less than two decades ago read "It is Absolutely Forbidden To Cross This Border into Afghan Territory." A guard backed the sign, and Afghanistan remained a land of mystery.

After a tour of Europe less than twenty years ago, King Amanullah antagonized his Moslem subjects by attempting to modernize. Western dress, compulsory school attendance for village girls, woman's consent to marriage—all these innovations clashed with ancient custom. High taxes for improvements were frowned upon. When the king tackled the medieval feudal system, revolt resulted.

Modernism Gets Toe Hold

Amanullah's successors, King Nadir Shah and his son, King Zahir Shah, the present monarch, have had more success with their gradual approach to westernization. To the forbidding sign at Khyber Pass has been added "without complying with the passport regulations." Nowadays a simple passport opens the south door to Kabul. Several countries have been granted diplomatic representation. (The first Afghan Minister to the United States arrived in Washington last year.)

Telephones were installed in some of the larger Afghan cities. Radio loudspeakers were put up in many towns' public squares. Kabul has radio and airplane communication with the outside world, telegraphic connection with India, and the exchange of parcel post. It is electrically lighted from water power until ten o'clock. The national bank is promoting industry, and factories now make clothing for the army, boots, buttons, ammunition, small arms, soap, matches, and beet sugar. There are tanneries, textile mills, a mint, and a newspaper.

Kabul is the home of the few foreigners, including about fifteen Americans. It is the largest Afghan city, with possibly 120,000 people. It has special advantages because of its location at the convergence of several mountain passes.

Other leading cities are Kandahar and Herat (illustration, next page).

The primitive life of the country has been shaped partly by hostile geographic factors, which have produced a hard, fearless, independent, and proud people. Mountains rise to 15,000 feet in the northeast; passes are blocked by snow in winter. In the lower elevations temperatures rise to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Much is desert land, with production limited to oases and a few fertile watered valleys, worked with wooden plows. About 17 per cent of the arable land is under cultivation. Another 10,000 square miles might be cultivated under irrigation.

About half the people are shepherds, following their flocks, living in black

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backdrop of green mountains, has inspired the title, Naples of the South Seas. Center of the white population and of the copra trade, Rabaul had a business and official life that spread across the bay to Kokopo before 1941, when transfer of the administrative offices to Lae, away from the volcano-plagued city, was begun.

Government officials and clerks, missionaries, labor recruiters, patrol officers, shippers, and planters used to meet in offices and hotels. On the discovery of gold in near-by New Guinea, Rabaul had boomed as the headquarters for prospectors.

The Germans who planned the town made wide streets canopied with flowering trees that dropped a carpet of bright petals in the blooming season (illustration, inside cover).

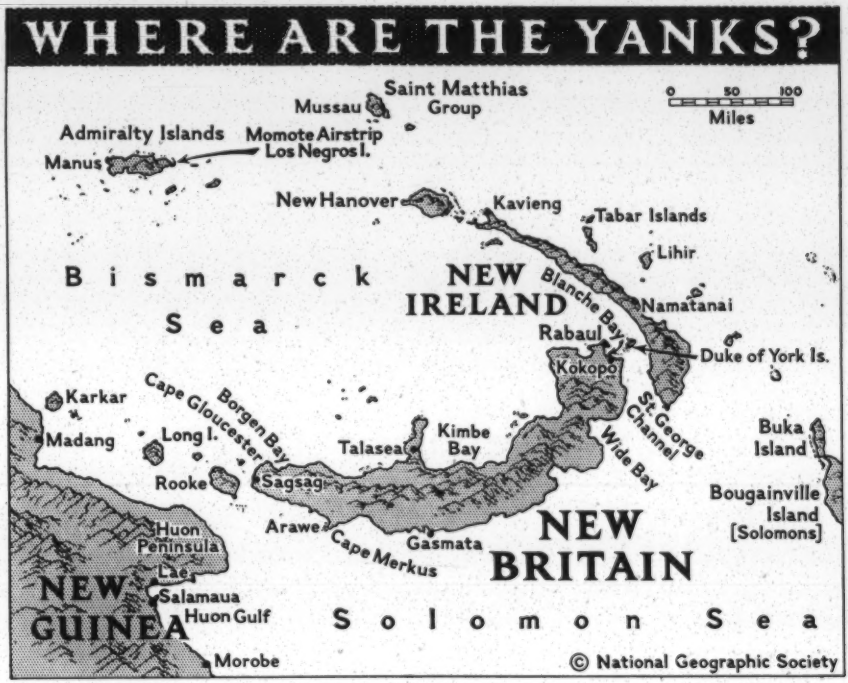
Blanche Bay is New Britain's best and biggest harbor. Elsewhere many bays bite into the shoreline, giving access to coconut plantations. Sharp-toothed reefs hem the northern and northwestern coasts.

The coastal settlements are small, with only primitive facilities. Their value is in open ground for airfields, as at Cape Gloucester, or in sheltered landing space, as at Gasmata and Arawe, the first to fall under Yank attack.

Note: New Britain is shown on the Society's Map of the Pacific Ocean.

For further information, see "Treasure Islands of Australasia," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1942*; and the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Volcanoes Rehearsed Rabaul for War's Bombing," April 24, 1944; and "New Britain: New Step on the Road to Tokyo," January 10, 1944.

Bulletin No. 2, May 8, 1944.



NEW BRITAIN'S BATTLEGROUND IS CAUGHT IN THE ALLIES' ISLAND PINCERS

Islands held by United Nations armies surround New Britain in a giant pincers, ready for the squeeze that will force the Japanese northward—Bougainville on the east, New Guinea on the south, and the Admiralty Islands on the northwest. Arawe and Cape Gloucester entered American history when U. S. forces made landings there to challenge the Japanese based at Rabaul on the island's other end. Mountains give New Britain mile-high peaks and an irregular coastline, amply supplied with spacious harbors, bays, and jutting capes. Before the war brought prominence to such pin points as Arawe, the island's centers were Rabaul, Kokopo, Gasmata, and Talasea.

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Soviet-Japanese Sakhalin Has Rich Resources

RECENT Soviet restrictions on fishing rights and the annulment of coal and oil concessions that had long been granted to Japan have brought a new evaluation of international relations and resources in the northwest Pacific.

Sakhalin Island is the area chiefly involved in the agreement. Divided between the Soviet and the Japanese governments, this slim, mountainous island is more than 600 miles long. It is split almost equally between the Russians in the north and the Japanese in the south. The Japanese half is called Karafuto; the Russian section retains the old name of Sakhalin, still generally used also for the island as a whole.

Valuable Northern Source for Coal

Lying between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, Sakhalin hugs the Siberian coast of the U.S.S.R. in the north, gradually widening the water gap as it reaches southward toward Hokkaido, northernmost island of Japan proper. It thus occupies a strategic position with regard to both Soviet and Japanese territory. The Kurile Islands lie due east.

Somewhat larger than West Virginia, Sakhalin has rich resources, including fisheries, oil, coal, iron, gold, timber, and furs. Most of the petroleum is in the Soviet half, much of the gold and iron ore in Japanese territory.

Both sections produce large quantities of coal. In 1937, more than 2,500,000 tons were mined in the Japanese half. The Russians have sharply increased output from their coal mines in the northern half, multiplying many times the 1931 production of 200,000 tons. Soviet Sakhalin reported that it had filled its quota for the year within ten months.

Concessions Exacted in 1925

Both Japan and the Soviet Union in recent years are understood to have been developing the island, in spite of its inhospitable climate. Between 1925 and 1936, population on the Russian side increased from about 10,000 to around 100,000. Mining, fishing, lumbering, and industries have been modernized, new farm and stock-raising activities encouraged. In 1942, tobacco, flax, buckwheat, and pumpkins were planted for the first time. New schools, homes, hospitals, and places of recreation have been built. Ports have been improved and new transportation routes established. Airlines, too, now serve this outpost, valued today for its raw materials and industries, though in Tsarist times it was regarded only as a remote and fearsome penal colony.

On the Japanese side also, farming, fishing, lumbering, and mining have all been accelerated within the last decade. Before the war the Japanese had an estimated 300,000 inhabitants in their share of the island. This was one of the last haunts of the vanishing Ainus (illustration, next page).

The entire island of Sakhalin once belonged to the Chinese Empire. Annexed by Japan early in the 19th century, it was transferred to Tsarist Russia in 1875. The latest change in status was made in the United States, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1905, when the peace treaty concluding the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5 resulted in the present division of the island.

At the time of the Russian Revolution and Allied intervention in Siberia, the Japanese occupied the Russian half of Sakhalin, holding it until 1925. When they

goat's-hair tents. In the winter, the wandering flocks—including Afghanistan's fat-tailed sheep—are pastured in the lowlands; in the spring they are driven into the mountains. More than a quarter-million Afghan traders and money-lenders work India in winter. The farmers live in brown adobe huts in villages.

Baluchistan and the southeast tip of Iran lie between Afghanistan and the Arabian Sea, 275 miles to the south. Exports are sent to Chaman in India and 580 miles by rail to India's port of Karachi.

Trade is mostly with India and with the Soviet Union, though Japan has supplied countless teapots and 20 million yards of cotton goods in a year, for the Afghan's long flowing trousers, blouse, and turban. Imports from the United States in normal times include automobiles, sewing machines, and radios.

The country exports skins, dried fruits, cotton, wool, and some distinctive warm-toned carpets. Karakul, or Persian lambskin, is among the chief exports, almost 2 million skins coming to the United States in 1940. In some years the U. S. received as much as two and a half million pounds of Afghan wool.

Afghanistan is reported to have petroleum, coal, iron, copper, lead, gold, silver, asbestos, mica, sulphur, and the finest lapis lazuli, but for the most part this mineral wealth is untouched. American oil interests recently surrendered a seventy-five-year concession without going into production, stopped by problems of transportation, and competition with Persian Gulf oil. There are many water-power sites awaiting development.

Note: Afghanistan is shown on the Society's Map of Asia and Adjacent Areas.

See also "Afghanistan Makes Haste Slowly," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1933; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Afghanistan, a Friendly Barrier Between India and U.S.S.R.," November 24, 1941.

Bulletin No. 3, May 8, 1944.

Maynard Owen Williams

HERAT'S BAZAARS WERE OLD WHEN EUROPE'S CAPITALS WERE YOUNG

Herat, among the poppy fields on Afghanistan's western edge, was already a trade center when the little towns of Athens, Rome, Paris, and London were young. A half-dozen times it has been wiped out by war, but each time a new city has risen beside the ruins. The city surrendered to Genghis Khan and escaped pillage, but later as punishment for deposing his governor the entire population of a half-million was massacred; sixteen survived. Tamerlane in 1398 administered another annihilating lesson in the meaning of total war. Since then the city's rulers have erected the stout 25-foot wall on an earth embankment 50 feet in height. Outside the Kandahar Gate, the southern one of the wall's five portals, bazaar stalls flank the road to Kandahar. Money changers, vegetable dealers, bakers, and other merchants display their wares to tall turbaned men and boys.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

ANCIENT MEXICAN RUINS DISCOVERED BY GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

DISCOVERY of the ruins of two cities in the jungle country at Mexico's waistline—the Isthmus of Tehuantepec—has been announced by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, President of the National Geographic Society. The news of the find came from Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, leader of an expedition sent out jointly by the Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

The smaller of the two cities, Dr. Stirling reported, apparently was abandoned more than 200 years ago during Mexico's colonial era. The site is now marked by numerous stone platforms reached by small stone stairways.

The larger community is believed to have been an ancient ceremonial center. Its remains consist of a group of large mounds, all faced with squared stones. Highest of the mounds reaches 50 feet and the largest is nearly 600 feet long. One of the features of the ceremonial city is a well-preserved ball court, a large rectangular space paved with flat stones. Its four sides are inclosed by embankments, also faced with stone. On this court was played a game resembling both modern basketball and handball.

The region in which the ruins were discovered lies more than three days' journey from the nearest human habitation. The soil, now choked with jungle growth, is fertile, Dr. Stirling said, and at one time probably supported a heavy population.

The field party lived on the abundant game of the country, including deer, wild pigs, and curassows (wild fowls like turkeys). The area is devoid of roads. The party made the tedious trip in river canoes.

Note: For additional material on archeological discoveries, see "La Venta's Green Stone Tigers," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1943; "Finding Jewels of Jade in a Mexican Swamp," November, 1942*; "Great Stone Faces of the Mexican Jungle," September, 1940*; and "La Venta Head Comes to Washington," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 25, 1943; and "La Venta an Ancient Indian Mecca," October 4, 1943.

* * *

SOUTHERN RHODESIA CELEBRATES SEMI-CENTENNIAL

SOUTHERN Rhodesia is this year observing the semi-centennial of the British acquisition of Matabeleland, now the western half of the colony. These fifty years have brought a highly industrialized civilization to the realm of David Livingstone and Cecil Rhodes, the land of the thunder of Victoria Falls and the inscrutable silence of the Zimbabwe ruins.

Southern Rhodesia lies just north of the Union of South Africa, west of the Portuguese colony of Mozambique. Through the latter a railway connects it with the port of Beira on the Indian Ocean. It has a population of 62,000 of European origin and one and a third million Bantus. Its area of 150,333 square miles is slightly larger than the combined areas of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Salisbury, the capital, with 50,000 residents, is situated on the veld nearly 5,000 feet above sea level. It carries on business and manufacturing much as the older cities of Europe do, although two-thirds of its people are Bantus. There are modern shops, banks, apartment houses; hotels, hospitals, and movie theaters; library, schools and playgrounds.

withdrew, they exacted the economic concessions only lately relinquished—oil and coal concessions in the island's northern half and the rental of certain Russian fishing grounds. The original agreement and later adjustments provided that the concessions should continue until 1970. In 1941, in connection with the Soviet-Japanese non-aggression pact, the Nipponese promised to liquidate their Sakhalin operations but failed to do so.

Now Moscow has announced that the Japanese have already liquidated their Sakhalin mineral concessions and accepted the loss of some of their former fishing rights, including the use of grounds off Kamchatka Peninsula.

Sakhalin oil—of which Japan obtained roughly one-half by concession and purchase—was particularly valuable to the Nipponese. In 1938, the output was nearly 370,000 tons. Since then, rapid expansion has been reported.

Note: Sakhalin is shown on the Society's Map of Japan and Adjacent Regions, issued as a supplement to the April, 1944, *National Geographic Magazine*.

See also "Japan and the Pacific," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1944; and the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Japan's Condemned Empire Was 50 Years in the Making," January 3, 1944; "Measuring Japan's Dominions," October 28, 1940; and "Half-and-Half Sakhalin Serves Russia and Japan," February 12, 1940.

Bulletin No. 4, May 8, 1944.

W. Robert Moore

SAKHALIN WAS ONE OF THE LAST REFUGES OF JAPAN'S WHITE AINUS

The Japanese islands may have been white man's country before the yellow man reached there, as dwindling remnants of the Ainu people suggest. Light-skinned, blue-eyed Caucasians, the Ainus were driven northward out of Japan proper by the Japanese. The few survivors had a precarious foothold in the northern islands, including Sakhalin. The Japanese have made an effort to remove all of them from the southern half of the latter island, to keep them from trading with the Russians. At the Ainu bear festival, the ritual eating of bear meat is accompanied by dancing; each Ainu village of straw houses has a wooden cage in which the bear is fattened. The black-turbaned woman (second from right) is not disguised as a pirate; her hoop earrings are treasured heirlooms and her tattooed mustache is the traditional sign that she is married.

With ample land available, the city planners provided broad streets and parks. Sports-minded citizens have golf courses, bowling greens, a polo ground, swimming pool, cricket, football, and hockey fields, and many tennis courts.

Salisbury's tobacco market sells 35 million pounds in a year. Its power plant supplies electricity to thirty-one gold mines and many farms, for which the city is a distributing center.

Bulawayo, the colony's second-largest city, has a larger percentage of Europeans in its 40,000 population than has Salisbury. It was formerly the capital of Matabeleland, the section which contains much of the colony's mineral wealth.

Southern Rhodesia mines large quantities of chrome ore, gold, and asbestos, as well as coal, iron, mica, silver, tungsten, and tin. United States purchases, normally amounting to $5,000,000 a year, are largely chrome ore.

The colony's growing list of factories includes plants for making paper, brushes, candles, cement, cigarettes, cotton thread, explosives, furniture, insecticides, leather goods, machinery, matches, truck bodies, nails, paints, perfumes, polishes, shirts, building tiles, tin cans, and wagons. There is a local iron and steel industry.

In addition to grazing 2,000,000 cattle Southern Rhodesia produces tobacco, cotton, citrus fruits, pineapples, bananas, and peanuts.

Note: Southern Rhodesia is shown on the Society's Map of Africa.

For further information, see "Rhodesia, the Pioneer Colony," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1935.

Bulletin No. 5, May 8, 1944.

Melville Chater

METALS-RICH RHODESIA RUNS MINERS' KINDERGARTENS

Archeologists and engineers agree that Rhodesia must have been one of the world's most extensively worked mining regions in prehistoric times, for the majority of modern mines are on the sites of ancient workings. A mining engineer has estimated that these unknown prehistoric miners obtained gold worth from $300,000,000 to $600,000,000. One theory is that the metal reached world markets through Arabian merchants. But the Bantu peoples, who overran Rhodesia some 1,500 years ago, knew nothing of gold mining. Many Bantu workmen employed in modern mines must be taught the ABC's of pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow, implements they have never seen before. These novices are practicing their homework aboveground, using a tunnel through a giant anthill as a simulated mine gallery. Such anthills—actually sturdily built termite mounds—dot the landscape of Rhodesia and dwarf the smaller cone-roofed thatch huts of the Bantus (left background).